

Message Text

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12

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9509

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1030

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 7830

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SINDELAR AND SCHROETER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: FRENCH WALNUT GROWERS PROTEST AGAINST U.S. WALNUTS

1. AGATTACHE OFFICE CONTACTED TERENCE WINDLE, CHIEF OF EC COMMISSION'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION, ABOUT STORY WHICH APPEARED IN HERALD TRIBUNE SEPTEMBER 2 ON FRENCH WALNUT GROWERS' PROTEST IN GRENOBLE AGAINST US WALNUTS. STORY SAYS THAT FRENCH GROWERS CLAIM THEY ARE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS BECAUSE OF UNFAIR COMPETITION FROM UNDERPRICED US WALNUTS AND HAVE DEMANDED HIGHER EC TARIFF PROTECTION.

2. WINDLE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY FORMAL FRENCH REQUEST TO THE COMMISSION TO TAKE SAFEGUARD ACTION ON WALNUTS BUT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GROWERS WERE WORKING ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE. ACCORDINGLY, WINDLE THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL "TO GEAR UP" NOW, AND REQUESTS THAT WE SUPPLY HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH US OFFER PRICES FOR WALNUTS.

3. LAST JULY 25, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DIAMOND WALNUT GROWERS, INC. INCLUDING A.L. BUFFINGTON, MET WITH WINDLE AND INFORMED HIM THAT THEIR BOARD WOULD BE MEETING TO FIX THEIR PRICES FOR THIS SEASON. BUFFINGTON SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM FRENCH GROWERS AND PROCESSORS' ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING IN CALIFORNIA.

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4. MISSION WOULD APPREICATE RECEIVING U.S. WALNUT PRICES TO
PASS ON TO COMMISSION AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT WE OR THE
COMMISSION COULD USE IN POSSIBLE FUTURE MEETINGS OR DISCUSSIONS.
GREENWALD

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